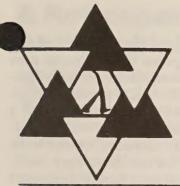
CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV



THE JEWISH GAILY

FORMARD

APRIL 1983

שער זהב

NISAN / IYAR 5743

May Day Picnic And Softball Game

HA'AR ZAHAV'S SECOND Picnic and Softball Game is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, beginning at 11:00 a.m. All members and friends are cordially invited to pack a picnic lunch (for yourself or to share) and any softball equipment you may have.

This event is being sponsored by the Women's Havurah as their first "co-ed" activity, and should be a wonderful day for all.

The picnic and game is currently scheduled for Julius ahn Playground, but please call the Synagogue office at 21-7612 to confirm location. Directions: [Enter the Presidio at the Arguello Gate. Make a sharp right immediately after entering and drive along inside of the wall to the bottom of the hill. The playground is on the left.]

Survey of Gay/Lesbian Jews Needed By New Task Force

HO THE GAY AND LESBIAN JEWS are in the Bay Area is the focus of a new task force, the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Concerns, which is an organization of major local Jewish organizations, plus Congregations Sha'ar Zahav and Ahavat Shalom.

The directors of this task force expressed the desire to better understand the size, background and composition of Bay Area Jewish gays and lesbians in order to examine ways in which the Jewish Community can more effectively respond to this segment of the Jewish population.

"It is important to let people know more clearly than ever that we exist in rather large numbers," explained Committee member Aaron Cooper. Individuals who are interested in receiving further information and offering their assistance may contact the Synagogue office at 921-7612.

President's Column

HE CONGREGATION has just enjoyed a wonderful seder to commemorate Passover. I find Passover a particularly intriguing holiday because it has both communal and personal meaning. A brief quote from Arthur Waskow's Seasons of Our Joy—A Celebration of Modern Jewish Renewal relates to this point:

"For centuries or millenia, three major themes have been interwoven in Pesach—the birth of a people into political freedom; the rebirth of the earth into springtime life; and spiritual rebirth of the individual (especially in the symbolism based on removal of chametz). All these, of course, con-

tinue to be profoundly important."

The importance of these themes for our Congregation cannot be overstated. The birth into political freedom of our three primary communities—Jewish, lesbian and gay, and feminist—has been a long and painful process. The struggle has yet to be achieved and continues for millions of our "companions of the soul" throughout the world. We at Sha'ar Zahav are engaged in community and personal struggles, too, and have some victories to our credit and some defeats (more likely temporary setbacks!). By our very existence as a Congregation, it is clear that we have achieved a good measure of political, religious, personal and cultural freedom. I can think of no group which has, collectively and individually, experienced as many processes on the road to freedom as ours. We have all been through some battles and, for me, that lends depth and meaning to Sha'ar Zahav's seder which is simply unequaled.

That all of us were able to luxuriate in the warmth of our Congregation's seder night was due to the efforts of a few people in particular—namely, Paul Cohen and Shelley Spiro, Seder Coordinators and Garry Koenigsberg and the Ritual Committee. Shelley and Paul expended a great deal of time, effort and energy in order to make our seder a wonderful evening. Their efforts to infuse the evening with a sense of *hamishness* certainly were rewarded by the appreciation of all who attended. Because of the *Forward*'s early deadline, a complete list of those who worked so hard will be published next month.

(continued on page 2)

A Jewish Gaily Quiz

Yiddish: The "Shhhh!" Factor

There is no shortage of the "sh" sound in Yiddish. Here are 20 of them, in definition form. You match the right words. Score 16 right and you're a shayner Yid; less than 10 and you're something of a shmo; less than five and you're a real shmegeggi.

1.	Pipsqueak/fool	Shikker
2.	Detective	Shlep
3.	Little town	Schmaltz
4.	Wig	Shmendri
5.	Match (the marriage kind)	Shtetl
6.	Drunk	Shtik
7.	Carry or drag	Shul
8.	Chintzy	Shnorrer
9.	Sentimental corn	Schlock
10.	Rag	Shmooz
11.	Chat and gossip	Shaytl
12.	Whiskey or brandy	Shammes
13.	Nose	Shnoz
14.	Piece or actor's little routine	Shtarker
15.	Synagogue	Shmatteh
16.	Beautiful	Shiddach
17.	Scandal	Shnapps
18.	Strong or brave one	Shvitz
19.	Sweat	Shandeh
20.	Professional beggar	Shayn

ANSWERS

1. Shmendrik 2. Shammes 3. Shtetl 4. Shaytl 5. Shiddach 6. Shikker 7. Shlep 8. Shlock 9. Shmaltz 10. Shmatteh 11. Shmooz 12. Shnapps 13. Shnoz 14. Shtik 15. Shul 16. Shayn 17. Shandeh 18. Shtatker 19. Shvitz 20. Shnorrer

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, (415) 921-7612. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given; credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Larry Chandler (editor & typesetter), Alex Ingersoll (production), Chuck Norton and Bart Benderoff (distribution) and Bruce Katz (coordinator).

The display advertising rate is \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more insertions. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. Ads should be camera ready. Any advertising that requires typesetting, camera and/or artwork is subject to a one-time production charge. Payment must accompany order and should be sent to the Synagogue Office, marked attention *Forward* advertising. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office 921-7612.

President's Column (continued from page 1)

The themes of Passover—of community and persor struggle—are reflected in our response to the scourge now threatening the well-being of our community: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS presents a challenge to us on both levels. As you are probably aware, a portion of the proceeds of "Megillah Madness" was deposited in our "Phooey on AIDS Fund." Donating money to be wisely spent is one of the things we can do to fight back. AIDS challenges us as a Congregational family to support ourselves when one of our own needs help. We have Congregation members whose lives have been touched by AIDS and it is up to all of us to respond with additional support.

David Stein is coordinating our efforts in this area. Please call David through our office, 921-7612, to find out which of the many ways to help best suits you. You may want to take special note of an article appearing elsewhere in this issue which announces an AIDS discussion session organized by Aaron Cooper.

Some final notes: Please be sure to attend the Congregational meeting on May 15. Check next month's *Forward* for the exact time and place. *Please* mark this date on your calendar now because your presence is important. Acknowledge your stake in this Congregation by being there, voting, sharing your ideas, and getting to meet other members whom you do not yet know. *May 15!*

Please fill out and return the Sha'ar Zahav membership questionnaire you have received. It is vital that the Va'a (Board of Directors) and committee chairs get updated put on members' thoughts and aspirations for the Congregation. As was explained in the questionnaire, this is particularly critical as we evaluate "Home of Our Own" decisions.

From strength to strength,
—Cheryl

Bad News for Stragglers

8:15 has always been the scheduled starting time for our Shabbat services. But we have often waited for late-comers, since we don't like to see anyone in our mishpocha to miss the lighting of our Shabbat candles. Now, however, our scheduled starting time will be our actual starting time. The Executive committee and Ritual committee have determined that as part of a general program to enliven services and keep them within schedule, our services will really begin at 8:15. Please try to make it on time!

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A Retrospective Look At "Megillah Madness"

F YOU WERE THERE, you know about it; if not, you've probably heard about it. Now here's the *emmess*-truth: From the moment of conception in early January, Megillah Madness created a tremendous amount of excitement. Gaining momentum during the planning stages it finally burst in celebration on February 25, 1983. Megillah Madness captured the true spirit of Purim—eat...drink...rejoice. It was an evening to have fun. And that we did!

The evening began with a beautiful Shabbat service conducted by Daniel Chesir and Mike Rankin. The musical accompaniment of Peter Hayn and Dana Vinicoff made for a festive service and the tone for the activities to follow was set by Mike's unconventional (and very successful) pushkepitch.

At the conclusion of services, members and guests had the opportunity to change into costumes (although many had already done so prior to services, which explains the additional color of the Congregation that night). After purchasing tickets from the Membership committee vendors, members and guests had the choice of several different game/activity booths (Video Games sponsored by the Women's Havurah; Bagel Toss—Building committee; Polaroid photos—Ways and Means committee; Palm Reading—Finance committee). Weary of game playing, others checked out the merchandise at the T-shirt boutique (staffed by our President and friends), stuffed their faces with food and drink rved up by the Megillah Madness committee or just mingled with friends.

Others were concentrating on the continuous raffle drawings. After all, keeping track of strings of tickets, listening for lucky numbers and collecting prizes does require a lot of concentration. The more serious competitors were busy primping for the costume judging and/or making sure that their homemade hamantaschen were just right for the bake-off judges' tasting. (Judging by the enthusiasm of all six trophy winners, the extra effort was worthwhile.)

Once the merriment really got going, we were treated to the 1983 Sha'ar Zahav adaptation of the Story of Esther. The program, the brainchild of Jon Funk, was scripted and performed by some very talented members and friends of the Congregation. It was received with great enthusiasm by the audience. (At last we know the "real truth" about life in the little village of Shushan!)

Megillah Madness '83 was an overwhelming success. Everyone felt the spirit of Sha'ar Zahav's Purim Festival and are already thinking about and planning for Megillah Madness '84. See you there!

—Allan Berenstein

Reminder! Congregational Meeting May 15

Check next month's Forward for exact time and location

Rap Group on AIDS

HE INCREASING PREVALENCE of AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses in our community affects all of us—people with AIDS, their friends and relatives, as well as gay men and lesbians who feel the impact of this mysterious illness in their own lives, lifestyles and attitudes.

Sha'ar Zahav recognizes the stress associated with the intellectual and emotional responses people feel about this frightening medical situation. As a result, we are offering an opportunity for people to meet together to share their thoughts and feelings and support one another in the face of this challenge.

On April 21, from 7-10 p.m., Mr. Jim Geary of the Shanti Project will lead a group to examine the effects which AIDS is having on our lives. The group will focus both on ways of being available and supportive to friends with an AIDS-related illness, as well as on our own fears and anxieties.

Our social-sexual lifestyles, the fear of acquiring an AIDS-related illness, effects on our gay self-concept, and dealing with community fear are only some of the topics which participants will be invited to examine in this group.

The group is limited to the first 15 participants who reserve a place. Reservations can be made by telephoning the synagogue office (921-7612) and leaving your name, address and phone number. Participants will be notified of the location at a later date.

There is no fee for participation by members of Sha'ar Zahav, who will receive first priority. Additional groups may be offered later depending on interest.

Photo Madness

There is now an opportunity to obtain photos of your own to mark the wonderful evening of "Megillah Madness." At Friday night services this month, photos taken during our Purim festival will be on display and you will be able to order as many copies as you like. Just check the photo wall in the Oneg room, pick up an order coupon and place your order. The photos will be available for a nominal fee and will be great souvenirs for those who attended (or who couldn't attend and need to see pictures to believe what has been described)!

8th International Conference

The 8th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews is scheduled for August 4 through 7 in Miami, Florida, hosted by Congregation Etz Chaim. A full range of social, religious and educational activities are planned.

The Conference will be held in the new 17-story Holiday Inn at Bricknell Point, located on the shores of Biscayne Bay. It is ideally situated near all major attractions. For a complete information and registration package, write to Congregation Etz Chaim, Conference Committee, 19094 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach, Florida, 33180. Please include your zip code and telephone number.

News From The Committees



As of March 14, our membership now totals 201! Congratulations to our three newest members, and welcome to our family.

The Membership committee will be sponsoring a "Bring a Friend" to services evening on Friday, April 15. A special gift will be presented to all guests and visitors that evening. Please bring someone you love and introduce them to our family. You can also look forward to a delicious Oneg prepared especially for you by our world-famous Membership committee chefs. Hope to see you there.

The next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:15 at the home of Eric Keitel, 819 14th St., #7 (corner Sanchez). All interested people are invited.

Women's Havurah

The Women's Havurah met on March 14 to discuss the role and participation of women in the Congregation. The meeting brought out many ideas and a wonderful feeling of camaraderie. Look for more details in next month's Forward.

We are planning other events to further enrich the lives of, and to do outreach to the women in our community. This will be among the topics to be discussed at our next meeting, scheduled for Monday, April 18. Please join us at Nancy's house, 3976A 25th St at 6 p.m.

Reminder!
Return the Membership Questionnaire
to the Synagogue Office

Election Committee Report

The Election committee would like to remind all members of the Congregation that we will be holding the annual Congregational election on Sunday, May 15. The time and place will be announced later this month. We will be electing our officers as well as members-at-large to the Va'ad.

In the near future you will be receiving information about each candidate and the entire election process. This will include instructions for requesting absentee ballots.

Also, please mark your calendars for the two candidates nights: Fridays May 6 and 13. Candidate presentations as well as a question and answer period will be held following the Oneg on each of those evenings.

Va'ad Report

the Synagogue membership has been much discussed by the Va'ad recently, primarily because of several major decisions that will be made in the course of the next few months. At March's Va'ad meeting, a membership questionnaire was approved for distribution. The questionnaire examines the issues of general synagogue life, the future rabbinic search process, the pursuit of "a home of our own," and overall Congregational priorities. The Va'ad strongly urges all members to complete and return the questionnaire. This survey is an important opportunity to let all our voices be heard.

Other Va'ad business at the March meeting included:

• A preliminary review of by-laws changes was presented by the By-laws committee. Spokesperson David Gass noted the committee's recommendations, which will be voted on at the April Va'ad meeting before being brought to the Congregation for final approval at the May semi-annual meeting.

• Bruce Katz has resigned as one of three Committee Coordinators. While his extraordinary contribution as a Coordinator will be sorely missed, he will maintain his seat on

the Va'ad.

- Preliminary approval was received for the development of a synagogue events calendar to encompass all holidays and ritual activities, committee events and meetings, community events of particular interest to the synagogue, and other noteworthy dates. A comprehensive calendar may ease the scheduling difficulty which has been experienced in the past year as the number of synagogue activities increases.
- Membership co-chair Eric Keitel presented three new names for approval as members, bringing the current membership total to 201.

• President Cheryl Orvis reported that she continues to receive letters of praise for the Purim party held in late February

ruary.

• Treasurer Allan Gold reported that in February, for the second consecutive month, Synagogue expenses exceeded revenues by about \$1,500. While this situation is not uncommon as the Synagogue enters the fiscal fourth quarter, there was nevertheless concern that the Va'ad monitor the expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year and look to spring and summer fundraising for an additional financial cushion.

Please call the Synagogue office (921-7612) for detaregarding committee meetings and other Synagogue business.

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			- 15 15 - 15 15		1 יח	יט 2
3	4 בא	13 5 Yizkor Membership Committee	6 (د	7 כד	8 כה	13 9
Yom Hashoah Newsletter Deadline	Na 11 Va'ad Meeting	12 כט	7 13 Rosh Chodesh A	N 14 Rosh Chodesh B	3 15 Bring a Friend Service	ג 16
T 17 Israeli Independence Day at Stern Grove	7 18 Yom Atzmaut Women's Havurah	1 19	7 20	Π 21 AIDS Rap Group	ט 22	1 23
124 יא	Finance Committee	יג 26	1י 27	טו 28	טז 29	יז 30
Services are held each Friday night at 8:15 at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California (at Presidio) in San Francisco.						

Ritual Calendar

Friday, Shabbat Hol ha - Moed Pesach April 1

Special Torah Reading: Ex. 33:12-34:26,

Num. 28:19-25

Haftorah: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14 Garry Koenigsberg & Mike Rankin

Yom ha Shoah observed (Remembrance of Friday,

the Holocaust April 8

> Torah: Shemini, Lev. 9:1-11:47 Haftorah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

Yizkor Service

Leslie Bergson & Daniel Chesir

Friday, Yom Ha Atzma'ut observed April 15 (Israel Independence Day)

Torah: Tazri'a-Matzora, Lev. 12:1-15:33

Haftorah: II Kings 7:3-20 Dubi Barcan & Peter Hayn

Torah: Aharei Mot-Kedoshim, Lev. Friday,

April 22 16:1-20:27

Haftorah: Amor 9:7-15 Garry Koenigsberg

Friday, Torah: Emor, Lev. 21:1-24:23 April 29 Haftorah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

Jonathan Funk

Parking Warning

Please do not park in the Chevron service station across the street from the JCC (California and Presidio). You will be towed. Parking is available in the Fireman's Fund parking lot also across the street from the JCC.

"Megillah Madness" Thank You

LTHOUGH NO LIST is ever complete (especially once it is published!) I want to thank the following people who gave so much to make "Megillah Madness"

such a successful and enjoyable evening:

Shirley Liberman, owner of Noble Pies, 4301 24th St., San Francisco; Charlotte Coleman, businesswoman extraordinaire; Joe de Ninno, Robbie Robinson, Gordon Utter and Garry Toselad of The Hair Company, 1813 Polk St., San Francisco; Fred Parkin, President, Upstart Crow & Company, 2345 3rd St., San Francisco; Carol Butler's Jazz & Tap Troupe; Danny Williams—wonderful comedian; Allan Berenstein, David Stein, Alex Ingersoll-for untold amounts of work; Lynn Alcorn, Roberta W.-food; Jon Funk—Megillah author; Leslie Bergson, Allan Gold, Aaron Cooper, Eric Keitel, Nancy Meyer—Megillah participation; Ron Lezell-M.C.; David Gass-tickets; Elliot Klein-Hamantaschen judging; Walt Leiss-food and drink arrangements; Paul Cohen - JCC arrangements and costume judging; Mark Mendelow—posters; Art Reichstadt—posters and food; Andy Swartz-food; Burt Tessler-tickets; Barry Siegel—one of the hardest working people ever: Alita Rosenfeld-Women's Havurah booth: Don Albert and Walt Leiss-Building Committee booth; Jerry Rosenstein and Tom Rothgiesser-Finance Committee booth; Linda and Sam Knox—helping at the T-shirt sales booth. Again. thanks to one and all. -Cheryl Orvis

Yom Atzmaut

Israel Independence Day will be celebrated Sunday, April 17 at Stern Grove. This is an all-day event with speakers, music, dancing, food and booths. Come and enjoy yourself and please stop by the official Sha'ar Zahav booth to say hello.



Special Fridays in April

IZKOR, THE MEMORIAL SERVICE, is said four times year: On Yom Kippur and on the last day of the pilgrimage festivals of Passover, Shevuot and Succot. The last day of Passover this year is on Tuesday, April 5; our Yizkor service will be held on the following Friday, April 9, in conjunction with our commemoration of Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust.

There will be three other, happier special Friday services in April. April 1 will be our Passover service, including readings from the Song of Songs and some special treatment of the liturgy in honor of the holiday. April 16 will be our celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the day honoring the independence of Israel and Judaism's ancient hopes of freedom and self-rule. And April 22 brings the Torah portion which includes chapter 18 of Leviticus ("A man shall not lie with a man as with women"); our service will deal with the meaning of this portion, and the relationship of lesbians and gay men to God.

Special Program Set For Friday, May 20

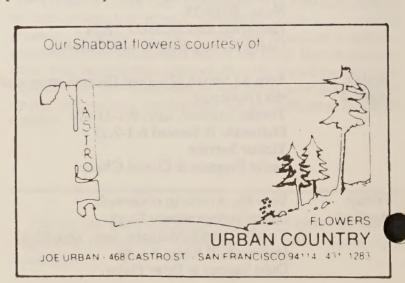
OLLOWING THE ONEG on May 20, we have scheduled a very special event. Judy Sloan, an actress, comedienne and clown, will visit with us and perform her one-woman show of Jewish life and lore.

As "Sophie," an elderly, lively, Jewish grandmother, Jude Sloan comments on everything from her family tree to the perils of nuclear power. The stories and routines of close-minded relatives, intermarriage, bickering families and the struggle to make good as immigrants in America while relatives are stranded in the "old country," are all true, learned from elderly Jewish women.

Additionally, Ms. Sloan transforms herself into other characters, juggling, singing, and delivering serio-comic

monologues on the "unfunnies of life."

This show, which has been performed throughout New England, New York and Florida, has received favorable comments from the *New York Times* and other publications. She has also performed on CBS-TV. This will be Judy Sloan's first visit to the West Coast and we are honored to present her to you.



April Yahrzeits

Robert Schwartz, son of Gwen Schwartz

- Geraldine Minsky Rankin, mother of Mike Rankin
- (20 Nisan) Josef Ha'Cohen Chesir, grandfather of Daniel Chesir
- Frank Blazewick, nephew of Joan Blazewick 14
- 17 Wally Rifkin, brother of Herman Rifkin
- (7 Iyar) Herman Kreitzberg, father of Duff 20 Kreitzberg
- 25 Irving Brill, father of Leonard Brill
- (16 Iyar) Abe Schorr, father of Cynthia Shorr 29
- 30 (17 Iyar) Frances Raim, mother of Leila Raim

Apologies

Some of our members and contributors were inadvertently sent requests for donations to the Forward. Such requests traditionally are sent only to those who have asked to be placed on our mailing list and then only after three issues are sent to them. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens, a notorious band of wayward gremlins broke free their chains and attempted to wreak havoc on our honest envelope stuffers. We hope we've caught all of them and returned them to the dungeon below the Forward offices. If you are a member or contributor to Sha'ar Zahav, of course the Forward is automatically sent to you.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified Ads are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5c each. The Forward reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. Place your classified ad by sending in your ad with the correct fee to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, 94101, att: Forward. Please note, this column is for the use of members only

JEWISH ROOMMATE wanted for possible vacancy in fantastic, two-story San Francisco flat with two decks, great views, lots of windows, fireplace, and two wonderful roommates. Available June. Rent share under \$300. Bernal Heights. Phone 821-4257.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS If you're moving, please allow Attach current address label here. six weeks for processing time. **NEW ADDRESS:** Mail to: Lame Sha'ar Zahav PO Box 5640 ddress S.F. CA 94101 City/State/Zip

April Happy Birthdays!

- Victoria Berdon
- Roberta W. 6
- 13 David Moss
- Bruce Hansen 14
- 14 Phil Walker
- Alita Rosenfeld 19
- Lenny Brill 20
- Milton Mosk 21
- 25 Kim Hettena
- **Bob Berkowitz** 28
- Shirley Liberman 29

To Sponsor an Oneg

Special occasions are time of joy, of celebration, of remembrance. Say "Happy Birthday" to friends or a loved one, remember a yahrzeit, or offer a "Mazel Tov" by sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat. Each week's social hour following services can be a gift to the Congregation which signals your special occasion.

For \$30 (or a portion thereof), you can subsidize the costs of an Oneg, or you can arrange for and set out your own special treats. We'll help you plan the menu and the quantities. For information and to reserve your Oneg date, call Susan at the Synagogue office, 921-7612.

Contributions

The names of contributors to Sha'ar Zahav will be published in the Forward, unless otherwise requested, beginning with the May issue. Contributions of any denomination are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.

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